

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request that the above-identified application be re-examined.

The October 31, 2005, final Office Action ("Office Action") allowed Claims 14, 15, and 19-21. Claims 1, 9, and 10 were rejected. Claims 2-8 were objected to, but indicated as allowable if placed in independent form. Claims 11-13, 16-18, and 22-24 were withdrawn from consideration as being directed to a non-elected species.

This amendment cancels Claim 1 and places Claim 2 in independent form. In addition, Claim 9 and 10 have been canceled, as have Claims 11-13, 16-18, and 22-24, all without prejudice to the filing of continuation/divisional applications.

Since all of the remaining claims in this application have either been allowed or indicated to be allowable, applicants respectfully submit that this application is now in condition for allowance. Consequently, early and favorable action allowing all of the claims remaining in this application and passing the application to issue is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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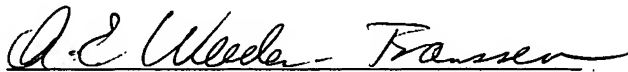


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Date: _____

1/25/2006



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